Mid-Summer Reminders & Updates

FROM: The Principal's Desk
TO: Parents/Guardians
DATE: July 24, 2022

RE: Mid-Summer Parent Memo
The purpose of this memo is two-fold. 1. To keep our communication going during our long separation, and 2. to share updates about the exciting things that are happening in preparation for the new school year.
First, I trust the message finds you and the kids having a blast and making fun memories. It’s almost two months since the children and teachers left for their well-earned summer vacation, but it feels like the separation has been much longer. As you are aware, during this time, work continues for school administrators. Cyndi, Vida, and I juggle time to work, plan, and play. For the first time this year, I was the first one to take a break. I traveled to the middle east, Israel, Jordan, and Egypt. It was a wonderful, adventurous learning experience. Currently my hard-working teammates are taking time for a much-needed break. The office will reopen half-days next week July 25.
Second, this note is to share the some of the updates about the exciting plans that are taking place in preparation for the new school year. Please know that provision is made for your involvement. Together we can achieve more to make the year even more spectacular. Do not hesitate to contact, your Home and School leader, your classroom teacher, or any office personnel and to let us know how or where you would like to participate and help make 2022-2023 an extraordinary school year for our students.

Information to Help Summer Preparation:
1. Report Cards—By now you should have received your Report Cards. Please take a little time to review it with your child and help him/her begin practice on those skills that need to be strengthened. If you have not received your child’s report card, please contact the office to find out the reason. Generally, the only requirement for report cards to be mailed is financial clearance.
2. Office Hours & Registration: When the office reopens next week, office hours will remain the same until further notice. Mon – Thurs 9:00-3:00 and on Fridays 9:00-12:00. Please feel free to stop by to register your child/ren or call to get answers for questions about the registration process.
3. Annual Parent Orientation: Please take note of your first appointment for the upcoming school year. It is the first meeting with parents to share important schoolwide information and plans regarding the 2022-2023 school year. The goal of this pre-school orientation is to provide you with information that will support an easy start and positive experience throughout the school year. Kindly mark your calendars and plan to attend this essential time together for an interactive parent meeting on Thursday, August 18, 2022, 6:00-7:15 p.m.
4. RMES Cleaning Work-BEE: (Sunday, August 14, 2022, 8:00 – 3:00): While we have begun the big cleaning jobs (carpet, windows, floors, etc.) in the building, once again, we are inviting you to join our team to get our entire school facility ready for a proud return on the first day of school. On the outside, the Playground, black-tops (parking & play lots), and hedges will be the major projects for enhancement. We need your help to accomplish the goal of replacing the broken sections of the blue & white play equipment and fill the ground area with wood chips. We will need many hands for the latter. Inside, there are various things to be done. If you have
skills to do minor repairs (such as, replace coat hooks, repair door locks, etc.), we can use your assistance. Please come and share a few hours of your time and skills. See the Work-Bee Flyer attached. Look for more information, including a list of tasks where we can use your expertise to enhance our school facility. Thank you in advance for including us in our schedule that Sunday.

5. Home & School Updates: Thank you for supporting our Home & School Leader, Kimberly Westfall, through her first year in the role. You will agree that she has done an amazing job! For the upcoming year I solicit your continued moral support and “active participation” to assist her in achieving the goals of the H & S, as well RMES shared goal and mission to bring our home, school, and church (families) together to build a cohesive community and make an eternal difference in the lives of our children.

6. H& S Support Needed, This Week!: While Kimberly will be sharing details about plans for 2022-2023, I would like to just give you a heads-up about some of the exciting upcoming Home & School events that we would like you to start thinking about and be ready for when the year begins.

- **July 27th - Fundraiser by/at Baguette La France** (Thursday all roads lead to Baguette. Please DO NOT FORGET to go and purchase your sandwich).
- September - Talent Vesper & Prayer Walk
- September - Bike/Walk-a-thon
- November - Multicultural Show & Food Fair

7. Lunch Program: We have made it through the first year using the GET App as our new process for ordering Lunch. I would like thank you for your patience and cooperation with us and AU Dining Services to help us get through the transition. While I do not think we all enjoyed the process, everyone has done a great job to make the system work. Looking forward to a better experience for all in the coming year. As usual, your feedback counts. Please do not hesitate to share any helpful suggestion to improve the meals and service. Bring your questions and suggestions when we meet, August 18. Thank you for supporting the lunch program.

8. Technology Enhancement & New Laptops: As you are aware, for the last four years technology has been a high priority area of quality improvement at RMES. Since we received the E-rate grant in 2016, we been on a continuous program to upgrade not only the school's technology infrastructure and increased wireless access but provide more cutting-edge instructional tools and devices for teachers and student. The following are some of the recent technology enhancements at our school:

- In 2017, a new NCO Room was completed and equipped with new cooling system and new network wiring has been completed on Wings B, C, and the gym.
- 2018, new network and hardware was installed in the B-Wing, Lab1 computers
- 2019, Once again, additional funding from E-rate made it possible to further enhance Lab1 on the B-Wing. Total rewiring of the lab, relocation of the poles and switches, and replacing the current computers with newer updated machines. 38 newer refurbished desktops added to the B-1 computer lab. We have benefitted well from these enhancements, including the faster, more efficient wireless service.
- 2020, purchased 60 Chromebooks along with management license (CARES-ACT Grant), projectors, laptops, mics, doc cameras, etc.) to ensure teachers were equipped for remote teaching/learning.
- 2021, procured 52 Chromebooks along with management license, 1 Smart LED ROKU TV, a Digital camera (GEER Grant), 3 Charging Lab Carts.
2022, procured 186 laptops and 5 charging lab carts, made possible with grant award from Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF). This new acquisition has made it possible for us to attain one of the long-term goals/dreams in our technology master plan, to provide one-to-one computers for students. Yes, every student will be assigned a personal device for classwork (only), effective start of the 2022-2023 school year. As you will expect, we will provide guidelines to help the students to effectively use and care for the machines. One thing to note is that the laptops will be kept at school and managed by the classroom teacher. More information

9. Berrien Community Grant Awarded to RMES: With the visionary leadership of our Home & School leader we applied and RMES was selected for the $2,000 award. How AWESOME…To God be the glory!

10. Berrien County Youth Fair (August 15-20, 2022): As usual, we are seeking Volunteers help man RMES/AA Promotion Booth. As we have done for many years, RMES and AA will consolidate our booth and share volunteers in order to maximize coverage throughout the day, from Monday, 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Volunteers will receive a free entry ticket. We will be happy for any length of time you can cover the booth. However, since this is preparation week for teachers, it would be a blessing to find one or two individuals who can cover 4-5 hours during the day. Please call office and sign-up with Cyndi (269-471-3220/) or contact Kimberly (H & S Leader) at jonandkimberly@mac.com. We need your assistance. Please sign-up for the day/s and times you would like to cover. Thank you.

11. Title 1: This is a reminder that RMES provides the Title I program, which provides additional individualized instruction for students, in grades 1-5, who struggle with reading and math. During the seven years this program has been available, we have seen many students improve in their grade level skills and attained the standard to test out of the program. Thanks to Mrs. Iveth Ortiz, our dedicated Title 1 teacher. Eligibility is based on the DRA and MAP testing.

12. Teachers’ Attend Convention: Every year RMES teachers join the teachers of MI Conference to start the school year together to set the spiritual tone and discuss educational issues pertinent to the field. We will meet at Camp Au Sable, August 3 -5. Please pray for a Spirit-filled experience and safe travels.

* First day of school for students, August 22, 2022 *

I trust this memo provides beneficial and encouraging information as you prepare for the new school year. Looking forward to our continued partnership in 2022-2023. We cannot do it without you and the Lord.

Continue to have an enjoyable and safe summer. Look forward to seeing you soon!

In His service,

Dr. Savory

Promise for you: “Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:5